

THE BANDWAGON

The Official Publication
of the

CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

A TOUR THROUGH THE U.S. AND CANADA
WITH THE ROBINSON FAMOUS SHOWS
THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO.

By C. E. Duple - C.H.S.
Historian.



The Robinson Famous Shows opened the 1914 season in Montgomery, Alabama April 15th, having been in Winter Quarters in that city. There were 20 cars back with the show and Advertising Car No. 1 was ten days ahead. This circus was owned by Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers, two hustling showmen who made circus history. Bert Bowers was General Manager of the Robinson Famous Shows and Jerry Mugivan was General Manager of the Howes Great London Show also on 20 cars that year.

Some of the staff I recall from memory were S. L. Cronin, Advertising banners and in charge of front door. In later years he was Manager of Al. G. Barnes Circus. James McNulty, Manager of side show with the usual line-up of attractions. Zack Terrell was in charge of the privilege car. He also made circus history - being Manager of Sells-Floto Circus for years and as we all know, present owner of Cole Bros., Circus. George Atkisson was Press agent back with the show and made all announcements in the big show program. The writer met him in Bedford City, Va., in 1933. Dick Masters was band leader with real circus band of 16 musicians. He was formerly leader with Mighty Haag Circus, and later leader with John Robinson Circus (Mugivan and Bowers owners). Archie Dunlap was in charge of elephants, Bill O'Day side show boss canvasman, and Frank Millard, big top boss canvasman. Doc Williams was boss of props. Chester Monahan held some position on the front door. James Orr was in charge of reserve seat tickets, while Mrs. Orr was snake enchantress in the annex. Dave Jarrett of Rockford, Ill. was lot superintendent and Vernon Reaver if I am not mistaken was Auditor.

Show had an entire new spread of canvas, a 4-pole big top with 2 rings and centre stage. Everything moved on time with a full crew of working men in all departments.

I regret that the circus did not have an official printed program so I could list all the acts. However, a well-balanced program was presented and am naming here only the performers I recall from memory. Frank Miller was equestrian director and did his principal bareback riding also did a two-horse carrying act with lady equestrienne. He also was in charge of menage acts. Show opened with the regular tournament followed by the old garland entry with all men riders in the two rings.

ROBINSON FAMOUS SHOWS (1914) - Continued

Outstanding feature of the big show was the Famous Nelson Family of Acrobats, six people. This act did not join until show entered into Canada. They performed on the centre stage. Paul Nelson of the Cole Bros. Circus was the juvenile member of the troupe. One of the girls Estrella Nelson is now Mrs. Zack Terrell. In later years this troupe was with John Robinson, Sells Floto and Ringling-Barnum circuses. Clara Miller and Grace Thomas were the two esquestriennes doing the usual feats in a most artistic manner with beautiful horses.

Laurette Sisters who were from Montreal, Canada and joined in Canada did aerial butterfly act and another aerial display. Ed. Millette and son Harry did their head balancing acts on trapeze. They were experts at this and appeared with other big shows later. DeMarcy, assisted by his wife had several large chimpanzees that performed on the stage doing some clever stunts including riding high bicycles of various types. Birdie Martino did rolling globe and juggling also was a slack wire performer. Al. Miaco, an old-timer was producing clown, having been with Ringling Bros., and the Forepaugh-Sells Shows.

The two LeMars, Walter Goodenough, and Joe Bell were among the clowns. Others I have forgotten. Joe Fuentes a Mexican as an impersonator got a lot of laughs on the track before each performance also was in the wild west in girl costume as a fancy and trick rider. Circus had some nice menage horses with ten or more lady and gent riders. Archie Dunlap and another trainer worked the elephants in both rings. There was an aerial bar act whose names have slipped my mind.

Dick Williams did the old-time mule hurdle dressed as a Dutchman with bells on mules neck. He also clowned. The writer knew him with the Dode Fisk Great Combined Shows. There was a clown band. Frank Miller's handsome sorrell horse with cream-colored mane and tail and gilded hoofs attracted much attention in the menage number. Did the cake-walk to perfection to the strains of "Coon Band Contest" down the hippodrome track.

The after show concert was strictly wild west with Hank Linton in charge. The writer met him last Spring with the Cole Show and is still going strong. Henry Boogs, wife and daughter Georgette, were others in the wild west concert. The others I have forgotten. The circus gave parades having several nice tableau wagons and cages, and all sleek baggage stock. There was not an air callioused with the big show band, but there was the old time steam calliope in parade.

The route of the Robinson Famous Shows from Montgomery, Ala., took it north through Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Penna. and West Virginia. First stand in New York State was Jamestown, one June 1st followed by Gowanda and Niagara Falls. Circus went into Canada June 4th at St. Catharines, Ont. Twenty-four towns played in that Province including Cochrane and South Porcupine, which are on the northern limits of the old Toronto and Northern Ontario Railway (277 mile jump to Cochrane) First stand in Quebec was July 2nd at St. Jerome followed by Jolliette, Grand Mere, Quebec, St. Anne De Laperade, Three Rivers, Terre Bonne, Lachute, Maissoneuve, Montreal (2 days) Magog, St. Hyacinthe, Sorel, Nicolet, Montmagny, Riviere Du Loup. All to satisfactory business. Then into New Brunswick for six stands.

First stop in Nova Scotia was July 28th at Amhurst and followed by Truro, Windsor, Halifax, New Glasgow, Sydney, North Sydney, Antigonish, Pictou and Oxford. Show came back again to New Brunswick at Moncton August 8th. On Monday 10th circus was at St. John, N.B. These last two names, fine business.

August 11th was a day enroute as show laid over in Mattawamkeag, Maine, a village on the banks of a rocky river where the cook tent was erected two meals served and all animals fed and watered. Bangor was played 12th. Nice business here, and Gardiner followed. Route then took show through New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Penna, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and Ohio. Six towns played in Virginia, eleven in North Carolina and two in South Carolina. October 28th into Georgia for six stands.

ROBINSON FAMOUS SHOWS (1914) - Continued.

At Beaufort, S.C., account of coastal storms and high winds that day only, the dining tent and horse tents were put up. No performances as day was lost, and show pulled out after dark.

Chattanooga, Tenn. November 4th was the closing stand to nice business. Warm sunny weather the last three weeks. In appreciation of the employees services during the season the management had an elegant supper served the last Sunday on the road which was at Rome, Georgia. Everything was on the menu from oyster cocktail to salted almonds, also a bottle of Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer. A delightful Sunday for all the show folks with beautiful weather thrown in.

The circus was taken to Peru, Ind. Winter Quarters over the Queen and Crescent, Southern, Monon and Wabash Railways. Total number of show days 176. Four Provinces played in Canada - 59 towns. States visited 16. Total mileage 10,948.

The Robinson Famous Shows was on road again 1915 season opening in Peru. In March 1916 Mugivan and Bowers bought the John Robinson 10 Big Shows from "gov" John F. Robinson, Cincinnati and that year saw the JOHN ROBINSON CIRCUS title used and continued on under the Mugivan and Bowers banner until passing into the hands of John Ringling September 6th, 1929. When the 1930 tour ended, John Ringling retired the show for good at the Peru winter quarters.

One of the really oldest and most famous names in circus history was the word R O B I N S O N. To-day, to circus lovers everywhere it is a pleasant memory of billowing white tents, glittering street parades, sawdust and spangles and Princely Presentation of Pompous Pageantry.

C. E. Duble's interesting circus articles are well known to all members by this time. The above lives up past reputation, and the Editors hope for another before long. The Robinson title is one that always recalls pleasant memories to those who remember visits from this show on "Circus Day". On the 22nd of June - 1921 - John Robinson's Circus played Guelph, Ont., Canada. President W.W. Tyson took some photos at that time, and is now pleased to loan one of the negatives so that each member may have a copy for his collection. This photo was taken in the early morning, before parade, and shows the usual John Robinson lot layout.

YOUNG BUFFALO WILD WEST AND TEXAS RANGERS

SENT in by "Crazy" Ray Choisser - CHS

Season 1911 - Opened April 8th at Lakeview Park, Peoria, Ill., 25 car wild west show (23 cars back and 2 advance cars). Staff for the show as follows: Vernon C. Reaver, Pres. & Gen. Mgr; M.A. Cookton, Gen. Supt; Al. Salvail, Side Show Mgr; Lon B. William, Gen. Agent; C.R. Gerdes, Sec. & Auditor; W.R. Bennett, Treasurer; Dee Robinson, Supt. Front Door; Tom Gorman, Press Agent; George Applehands - Supt. Tickets; Henry Kerns - Bandmaster; Joe R. Smith - "Young Buffalo"; Ambroise Means, Chief Cowboy; George Wombold - Boss Canvasman; "Crazy" Ray Choisser - Arena Announcer (for first 5 weeks) Clarence Woodward - Announcer (balance of season); Whity Larkin - Boss Hostler (Baggage Stock); Jess Robinson - Steward; Frank Schram - Boss Ring Stock.

JOE PENTLAND'S CIRCUS

Hartford, Conn. ----- September 14-15 1854

Mons. Nicholo - 3 Juveniles - Acrobats.

Davis Richardi - Daredevil Hurdle Rider.

Madam Virginia Sherwood - Rider.

Wm. Armstrong - Rider and Gymnast.

Geo. Batchelder - Vaultor - 2 horse rider.

Joe Pentland Famous Clown - Jester.

Gymnasts - Double Trapeze - Trained Dogs.

Original Dragon Band Chariot drawn by 10 coal black horses - brass band.

Copy of ad sent
through courtesy
of Billy S.
Garvie.

Tiger Bill Show.
Related by F.C. Fisher, - C.H.S.

The title dates back as early as the late 90's or early 1900's. A man named "Doc Pike" had it for a number of years and toured Michigan, Indiana and Ohio with a Michigan man named "Dave Perriene". He had out a Wild West Tiger Bill. At one time he owned two shows, No. 1 and No. 11. "Perriene" was out of Eaton Rapids and had a show called Bronco Joes Wild West. Sometime during early period Perriene sold show to Emett Snyder, better known as "Col. Tiger Bill". Will now refer to him as Col.

Show went to Kentucky and as far as I know went to Texas. This show I believe never returned to Michigan. The Col. did return to organize a show and go out of Wisc., with a "Popcorn George Hall". Due to unforeseen accident in which a man was killed show dispursed near Miles, Mich., I am sure.

In years to come "Col" and son "Leo" who is to-day with Ben Davenport's "Dailey Circus" known as young "Tiger Bill" producing concert. The two took out a wagon show. Last season Leo was with his father was in 1927.

In '28 Col. and a person Harry Beagles of Edwardsburg, Mich., took out "Tiger Bill Show". In '29 Col. was with the D. D. Murphy Shows - a carnival company. Carnival was forced to close. However, Col. was there for a number of years.

Col. returned to Charlotte, Mich., and with F. C. Fisher (self) operated a couple of pit shows and pony ride at various County Fairs one fall.

Ending this period of time a partnership took form between Col. and a Bellview man named MacIntosh. Show going out of Bellview for 1938 season. Col. died in late '38 or early '39. He is laid to rest at Charlotte, Mich. I am sure show was never taken out of or near Greenville. Show wintered in Charlotte and "Mrs. Emma Snyder" died at Homestead in Charlotte April of 1944.

Leo Snyder the son did reside in Greenville one winter either '29 or 1930. His wife's relatives still reside there I believe. He did return to work for Col. and MacIntosh for season 1935.

WHO CAN HELP OUT ON THESE?

Frank A. Norton CHS - is always sending in notes to the Editors, and is wanting some information about the following shows.....

THE GREAT NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE and variety Combination. Played Dunkirk N.Y. June 27th, 1865. J. C. Stuart - Business Agent.

GARDNER & J. FOREPAUGH'S GRAND MENAGERIE AND CIRCUS COMBINED. played at same town Friday May 20th, 1870. No mention of performers but does mention an African Bull and street parade headed by the "Swan Chariot". C. Whitney - Agent.

ALLEN GREAT EASTERN CIRCUS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT SHOW - Dunkirk, N. Y., Thursday, June 3rd, 1880.

THE SIPE EDUCATED ANIMAL AND LILLIPUTIAN SHOWS - same place, July 21st, 1902.

JOHN ROBINSON & FRANKLIN BROS. ENORMOUS SHOW COMBINED, They were at Dunkirk, N. Y., Tuesday, May 13th, 1897.

CIRCUS SALES by VAN MATRE, CHS.

- 1902 Jan. 8 at Algiers, La. the SELLS-GRAY CIRCUS was sold at Sheriffs sale and brought \$5,025
- 1903 July at Janesville, Wis. the LUELLA-FOREPAUGH-FISH WILD WEST SHOW was sold at Receivers sale and brought \$12,510. The show was bought by Walker of the Erie Printing Co. and then leased to John Barton.
- 1905 Jan. 10 at Columbus, Ohio the FOREPAUGH-SELLS BROS. SHOW was sold to James Bailey for \$150,000 CASH
- 1905 Jan. at GENEVA, Ohio the WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS was sold to W.P. Hall of Lancaster, Mo. for \$120,000 CASH.
- 1906 Dec. at Baraboo, Wis. the control of HAGENBECK SHOW was bought by RINGLING BROS.
- 1910 Jan. at New York the COLE BROS. WORLD TOURED SHOW was sold by James Downs to Fiss, Doerr, and Carroll horse dealers.
- 1910 June 11 at Peru, Ind. the NORRIS AND ROWE CIRCUS was sold to Shannon and Brotherton for \$42,033.
- 1910 Aug. at Peru, Ind. the NORRIS and ROWE CIRCUS was sold at public auction.
- 1911 Nov. 24 at Indianapolis the DANNY ROBINSON CIRCUS was auctioned off.
- 1913 June 11 the HAGENBECK-WALLACE SHOWS were sold to Carl Hagenbeck and Great Wallace Show Co. of Indianapolis
- 1913 Aug. 21 at Overland Park Denver Col. the BUFFALO BILL-PAWNEE BILL SHOW was auctioned off and brought \$16,000
- 1914 Aug. at Glens Falls N.Y. the SIG SAUTELLE CIRCUS was sold to Louis Thilman
- 1914 Dec. 10 at Terrace Park Ohio the KIT CARSON BUFFALO RANCH WILD WEST SHOW was sold at auction and brought \$4,468.75
- 1916 Mar. the JOHN ROBINSON 10 BIG SHOWS COMBINED were sold to Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers
- 1916 Dec. 16 at New York the FRANK C. BOSTOCK trained wild animal collection was sold to Frank Spellman for \$150,000
- 1918 Feb. 26 at Shreveport, La. the COLE BROS. CIRCUS was sold at auction
- 1918 Dec. 28 at French Lick Ind. the HAGENBECK-WALLACE CIRCUS was sold at receivers sale to Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers for \$36,100
- 1919 Mar. at Enid, Okla. the CAMPBELL CIRCUS was sold to Floyd King Show then opened under title of SANGERS SHOWS
- 1920 Nov. the YANKEE ROBINSON CIRCUS was sold to Edward Ballard
- 1920 Nov. the SELLS-FLOTO CIRCUS was sold to Edward Ballard and Jerry Mugivan
- 1920 Nov. the HARRY K MAIN SHOWS were sold to K. F. Smith for \$12,000 The sale took place at Milan, Tenn.
- 1920 Dec. 2 the FRANCIS FERARI SHOWS were sold to John Brunen for \$20,000
- 1921 Oct. 27 the WALLACE FARMS at Peru, Ind. were sold to Mugivan, Bowers and Ballard for \$500,000. This included 600 acres of land show car shops and winter quarters
- 1922 Jan. 12 at Chicago the GOLLMAR BROS. CIRCUS was sold to Mugivan, Bowers and Ballard
- 1923 Jan. the GENTRY BROS. FAMOUS SHOWS were sold at receivers sale to James Patterson
- 1924 June 18 at Little Rock, Ark. the GOLDEN BROS. TRAINED WILD ANIMAL CIRCUS was sold to John Pluto for \$18,600
- 1924 Sept. George Christy bought the Golden Bros. Show from John Pluto at Mooresville, N.C.
- 1924 Sept. WALTER L. MAIN CIRCUS owned by ANDREW DOWNIE was sold to MILLER BROS.
- 1926 Jan. at West Baden, Ind. the GOLLMAR BROS. CIRCUS was sold to Arthur Heritage and C.F. Neese
- 1926 Feb. 11 at Louisville Kent the GENTRY BROS. CIRCUS was sold to King Bros.
- 1926 Feb. the COLE BROS. SHOWS was sold to John Pluto
- 1928 Nov. at Macon, Ga. the SPARKS CIRCUS was sold to H.B. GENTRY
- 1929 Dec. at West Baden, Ind. the GENTRY BROS CIRCUS was sold to Donaldson at receivers sale
- 1930 Mar. 13 at Havre de Grace, Md. the DOWNIE BROS. CIRCUS was sold to Charles Sparks
- 1930 Aug. the COLE BROS. CIRCUS was sold to H.S. INGRAHAM and Bert RUTHERFORD.

PULLING AN ELEPHANT'S TUSK
an unusual story as related by Mrs. F. Hodgson - C.H.S.

The most novel thing I ever saw was the pulling of an elephant's tusk. It was in the city of Mexico in 1902. One of the big attractions of Orrin Bros. Circus (operated by Mrs. Hodgson's husband) was a big elephant that was known by every man and woman and child in the Republic, as it had been with the show for over twenty years. He was so gentle that children had ridden on his back for years.

One day the animal began to act strangely and a surgeon was sent for but he failed to discover what was wrong. The Keeper reported that it refused to eat. The surgeon was sent for again and he found that one of the tusks was decaying at the root. Cocaine was injected and other medicines applied to ease the pain but the big fellow seemed to suffer more each day so it was decided to pull the tusk, but how to do it was another story. However, the Surgeon with his assistants decided upon a plan.

The Manager of the show invited me to be present to witness the operation. The elephant was led into the middle of the arena where heavy stakes had been driven. He was then chained to the stakes and with much difficulty pulled back on its haunches. His big trunk was strapped up over his back and animal keepers were stationed all around with hooks if he became mean or unmanageable during the operation.

The Doctor then began work and almost a bucket full of cocaine was injected into the gum and side of its head then the doctor when satisfied that it was dopey, took an auger and bored a hole in the tusk near the gum. This took a long time but every now and then more cocaine would be injected.

After the hole was bored through - the tusk, a steel rod was put through the hole and to this a strong rope was attached. The rope was then covered with tar and wound round the tusk. After this the rope was run through a pulley that was attached to several stakes, and a team of four horses was in readiness and the rope fastened to the traces. When everything was secure the horses pulled hard. It was a long hard pull but out came the tusk! The monster elephant fought and tried to get away but he was chained so well, that he was powerless.

After the tusk was pulled the big fellow was released and taken back to his quarters, obviously more satisfied than any of the rest with the operation. The hole left was an inch in diameter and eight inches long. No wonder the pain had all but driven the animal mad for the tusk goes directly to the brain. After the hole healed it was filled with beeswax and a silver plate put over to keep out the air. We might add that the beast recovered its health and lived for several more years. The circus was in pocket and the doctor had accomplished the biggest dental job of his life and was proud of it.

SHERIFF HAS THE CIRCUS

(copies from The Bucksport (Maine) Clipper, Thursday, June 4th, 1896.
sent in by A.P. Wescott, CHS.

Here is an interesting account of a title which seems to have been skipped by most of us:

"Waterville June 1st, 1896; True & McVeigh have left their circus in the hands of the Deputy Sheriff Nutt of Fairfield and the people who were with them are getting out of town as fast as they can. Probably if they had had good weather Sunday they would have netted a good sum from the Sacred concerts which were to have been held at Island Park but the storm spoiled that. Several of the laborers have walked away while some were able to get a small amount of money and went by rail. The good town of Fairfield has provided all with food and a place to stay, so none have been obliged to beg".

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

CHS Mrs. Ione Stevens and Mr. Stevens have purchased a home with 35 acres of land in Hugo, Okla. Mrs. Stevens plans to have a circus room for her collection. Hugo, Okla. is the Winterquarters for the Al. G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus.

CHS J. S. Armstrong has just concluded a two weeks' tour with Clyde Bros Circus, playing indoor dates through Texas.

CHS Tedd Meyer ex-publisher of Sawdust and Spangles until his induction into the army, spent a furlough at his home in Iola, Kansas, before leaving for overseas duty. While there CHS C. H. White visited with him.

Welcome to F.C. Fisher - to membership as Contributing Member in CHS. Mr. Fisher is the owner of the circus of that title. He extends a very hearty invitation to all CHS members to visit him at Winterquarters in Jackson, Mich., or during their Summer canvas tour.

Members who did not receive the Ernestine Clarke photo stamp with the December number of the Bandwagon, may secure one by writing to the donor - CHS Wallace G. Winter, 2316 B Street, Bellingham, Wash.

CHS Leonard Quist also writes that he will be pleased to send a 1943 James M. Cole Circus Complimentary ticket to all members who send him either a 3¢ stamp - or a self-addressed envelope. Leonard's address is: Route 2, Box 240, Greensburg, Penna.

CHS Maurice Allaire reports that Jack Brown CHS and himself were the guests of Lawrence Brown CHS for dinner at the Elk's Club the latter part of December, and afterwards they went out to L. Brown's house in Portland and viewed his collection of over 300 elephants, and his bull hooks, etc. W. Fulton White CHS joined them for the evening.

President CHS W.W. Tyson reports that since his news letter of last month, the results of the Election in Division Six have been received, and for the completion of your files, we list them as follows:

Title - AMERICA BANDWAGON - Division 6 - CHS.
Driver and Director Bette Leonard; W.W. Green, Bandmaster.
Joseph Shields Sec. Treas; and C. H. White - Brakeman.

This is our newest-formed Division - and all members will join in wishing them the very best of luck!

Please add these new members to your list:-

- No. 180....Mr. Clyde Wixom, 14686 Fordham Ave., Detroit, 1, Mich.,
Models.
- 181....Mr. Eugene Thompson, 272 N. Ogden Ave., Columbus 4, Ohio.
Ph;Pr; Bks.
- 182....Mr. Arthur B. Larson, 250 Fulton Place, Canton, Ill.,
GC; M.
- 183....Miss Margaret May Larson, 250 Fulton Place, Canton, Ill.,
GC; M.
- 184....Mr. Wilbur L. Porter, 11634 Princeton Ave., Chicago, 28,
GC; Ph; R;L; Newspaper clippings. Ill.
- 185....Mr. J. W. Barrett, 310 2nd St., Essington, Pa.,
Model Circus and carnival.
- 186....Mr. Sheridan Holdridge, 7008 Torresdale Ave., Philadelphia
GC; M. 35, Pa.,
- 187....Mr. James Malfatto, 7904 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.
GC; M.
- 188....Mr. Cliff F. Cowan, 602-17th St., Oshkosh, Wisc.,
GC; sp. wagon and equipment photos.
- 189....Mr. Gus M. Eiser, 317 Riverside Drive, Piqua, Ohio.
Ph.
- 190....Mr. Otto Scheiman, 214 N. Coquillard Drive, South Bend, 17,
Ind.

NEW MEMBERS (Continued)

- No. 191.....Mr. F. C. Fisher, P.O. Box 104, Jackson, Mich.,
Owner, Fisher & Son Circus - Contributing Member,
192.....Mr. John V. Leonard, 421 W. State, Ithaca, N.Y.,
GC: Li; Pr; Ph; SB.
-

Permanent changes of address:-

- No. 126....Mrs. Ione Stevens, Coffeetown, Kansas,
new address - c/o Kelly-Miller Circus, Hugo, Okla.,
102....Mr. Ted Marrs, Alexandria, Ind.,
new address - 103 N. West St., Alexandria, Ind.
152....Mr. Herbert Fursie, Sr., Brantford, Ont., Canada.
new address - Mount Vernon, Ont., Canada.
-

Temporary changes of address:-

- No. 184....Mr. Wilbur L. Porter, Chicago, Ill.,
temporary address; Cpl. W. L. Porter, 36325436
Hqs. Section, 1879th Unit, Camp Livingston, Louisiana.
-

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Send in your bids to the Secretary - John B. Lyon, 210 Waterloo Ave., Guelph, Ont., Canada. Bid on as many or all if you want to. Do not send any cash with your bid - you will be advised if you are the lucky one later on. All bids must be in Secretary's hands not later than March 3rd.

Lot No. 1 - One 8 x 10 enlargement of Ernestine Clarke, in ballet costume. Donated by CHS Wallace G. Winter.

Lot No. 2 - Ten photos 3½ x 4½ Robbins Bros., Circus - season 1938 Beautiful parade pictures, taken from upper angle. From negatives of the Late Don Rockwood Collection. This lot donated by Maurice Allaire, CHS.

Lot No. 3 - Special 8-page edition of the Hartford Courant, dated Friday Morning July 7th, 1944. Full newspaper is devoted entirely of stores and pictures of the Ringling Fire Disaster. A real nice collector's item. Donated by CHS Arthur Gunther.

Lot No. 4 - Six 5 x 7 photos of various circus acts and performers. Dorothy Herbert; Balzer Sisters; Peaches Sky Review; Miachahua; Movin Sisters - acrobatic troupe; Helen Siegrist. Some are posed and others action pictures. Donated by CHS Robert Collins.

Lot No. 5 - Fifteen Size 116 photos - various seasons and titles including Hagenbeck-Wallace 1933; 1934; Cole 1936, 1942; Russell 1934; Billroy 1937; Strates 1942; Tom Mix 1937; Dill 1932; Barnett 1935; 101 Ranch 1931; A nice lot for the beginner. Donated by CHS William Koford.

Lot No. 6 - Seven photos size 4 x 6 - circus performers and acts. Including Naitto troupe; Kuntz & Kuntz; (3) The Albanis, real thriller; Miachahua; another of the Naitto. Some are thrilling action photos and other poses. Donated by CHS Robert Collins.

Included in the above lots are some very fine photos, and members are urged to go over them carefully and send in your bids as early as possible.

A CHANGE IN TITLE AND MANY OTHER NEW FEATURES !

THE NEW

BIG TOP NEWS

Here is a chance to receive the latest Circus News absolutely free and you are positively not obligated in ANY way ! Write TO-DAY, Now!

AN OPEN LETTER TO CIRCUS FANS & TROUPERS EVERYWHERE----

Dear Friends:-

Due to necessity, I have had to cease publishing the Circus Newspaper, called BIG TOP (Now BIG TOP NEWS). Time would not permit me to continue publishing it on the scale I have been for the past two years. Instead, I am issuing BIG TOP NEWS on a slightly reduced scale, and will consist of several pages of the very latest Circus News! There will be absolutely no charge for this, and no advertising will be carried. I am glad to issue BIG TOP NEWS free as a medium of keeping Fans and Troupers informed of latest events in the Circus World, and of boosting the World's Most Popular Entertainment--- THE CIRCUS!

The past season, when I visited on the lots, the many praisey comments I received from all, and the many appreciative letters received by me in the past, made me hesitate in taking BIG TOP "off the road". Therefore, I decided this would be the best way I could continue publishing Circus News, and serve the best interests of all. However, I find that it will be impossible for me to sit down and address the many envelopes and place stamps on each, besides the cash outlay involved. This procedure alone usually takes a full half day working steady! But with the co-operation of each of you, by simply sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, this will greatly facilitate my getting your copy to you. Copies are now available or soon will be.

There is a possibility that BIG TOP NEWS may be issued weekly during the Summer Months when more Circus News is available. BIG TOP NEWS is not concerned with unofficial rumors, but reports the News as it happens! To Those who have expressed such gratuitous thanks in the past, many thanks again! REMEMBER --- BIG TOP NEWS IS YOUR FUTURE RECORD OF CIRCUS HISTORY --- FILE THEM!

Sincerely,

Robert Sams
3009 - 15th St., Ensley
Birmingham 8, Alabama.

P. S. THE Popular Column of Circus News, "Under the Big Top", acclaimed and approved by you in the past, will be retained!

SEASON'S GREETINGS /

S/SGT. TOM PARKINSON - C.H.S. 31

ENROUTE IN EUROPE WITH OPPOSITION BRIGADE

EISENHOWER'S BIG SHOW

Correspondence with fans and troupers invited

Perm. Address: 336 N., Oak Crest, Decatur, Ill.

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SALES OF DON SMITH PHOTOS WILL BE

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Price \$1.00 - One Dollar Each - 6 for \$5.00

Satisfaction Guaranteed

8 x 10" Views of Gollmar Bros., Circus - including Bandwagon,
Calliope, Cage, Clown, Performer Group, Etc., Above prices.

DON SMITH

Box 246

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Frenzied Crowds Leaving tent, etc.
Set of 14

Only \$5.00
Have photos taken before fire, too.

George E. Morrissey
4707 Connecticut Ave.,
Washington 8, D.C.

THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS
for your fine Christmas cards,
and I trust and hope that this
year will be the GREATEST and
BEST for each and every CHS.

BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL !

Joseph Tracey CHS
31 Ross Ave., Buffalo 7, N.Y.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

AND

A GOOD CIRCUS SEASON

TO ALL C. H. S.

GORDON E. BORDERS HA 1/0

U. S. NAVY CONV. HOSPITAL

BEAUMONT CALIF. U.S.A.

IRREFUTABLY THE BIGGEST

UNDENIABLY THE BEST

PRESENTING TO A DISCERNING AND DISCRIMINATING PUBLIC A COLOSSAL AND KALEIDOSCOPIC CAVALCADE OF COLLECTED CIRCUSIANA IN NEVER-ENDING VARIETY. PRONOUNCED BY THE MOST CRITICAL AS UNPARALLELED IN THE ANNALS OF CIRCUSDOM AND WITHOUT COUNTERPART ON EITHER SIDE OF THE OCEAN.

INTRODUCING ORIGINAL AND STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS TITLES BY THE MOST EMINENT AND DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS. EMPHATICALLY DECLARED AND CONCEDED TO BE BETTER THAN THE BEST.

EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS REPRESENTED. DO NOT BE DECEIVED BY THE EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS AND IDLE BOASTS OF LILLIPUTIAN, DIMINUTIVE, MICROSCOPIC, INFINITESIMAL, MONO-HIPPIC COMPETITORS.

100

FASCINATING CIRCUS BOOKS

100

UNRIVALED! UNEQUALED! UNPARALLELED! UNSURPASSED! UNAPPROACHED!

THE GUNROOM BOOKSELLERS

NORTH CASTINE

MAINE

MIGHTY IN MAGNITUDE

TRULY TRIUMPHAL.